

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A pedestrian collision detecting apparatus for a vehicle comprising:

a collision duration determining circuit working to determine a collision duration for which an object is being hit by a vehicle after collision of the vehicle with the object;

a collision condition monitoring circuit working to monitor a change in number of locations of collisions of the vehicle with ~~objects~~a plurality of contact points of the object in a lateral direction of the vehicle; and

a pedestrian-vehicle collision decision circuit working to decide that the object being hit by the vehicle is a pedestrian when the collision duration is smaller than a given threshold value and when the change in number of the locations of the collisions is detected by said collision condition monitoring circuit.

2. (Currently amended) A pedestrian collision detecting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said collision condition monitoring circuit further works to monitor the change in the number of the locations arising from a fact that one of the legs of a pedestrian ~~has struck~~is projected up by the vehicle.

3. (Original) A pedestrian collision detecting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a speed sensor which measures a speed of the vehicle, and wherein said pedestrian-vehicle collision decision circuit works to

collect one of the collision duration and the given threshold value as a function of the speed of the vehicle.

4. (Currently amended) A pedestrian collision detecting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said collision condition monitoring circuit includes a line sensor equipped with a plurality of conductive lines which extend at a given interval away from each other and make a contact therebetween upon application of a physical impact with ~~an~~the object and a detector circuit working to detect occurrence and ~~a location~~ at least one of the locations of collision with the object based on a change in an electric parameter associated with impedance between the conductive lines.

5. (Currently amended) A pedestrian collision detecting apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein the number of the conductive lines is two, wherein one of the conductive lines is connected at an end thereof to a first impedance element and at the other end to a second impedance element, wherein a voltage is applied across the conductive lines through the first and second impedance elements, and wherein said collision condition monitoring circuit works to monitor the change in the number of the locations arising from a fact that one of the legs of a pedestrian ~~has struck~~ is projected up by the vehicle based on voltage drops across the first and second impedance elements.

6. (New) A pedestrian collision detecting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the pedestrian-vehicle collision decision circuit further is configured to facilitate transmitting a signal to trigger airbag deployment.

7. (New) A pedestrian collision detecting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the pedestrian-vehicle collision decision circuit is configured to facilitate adjusting the given threshold value as a function of a speed of the vehicle.